

AUG 7 1996

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A RESOLUTION OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
COMMISSION ON THE FUTURE OF SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA

WHEREAS, communities with access to advanced telecommunication capabilities will be the pace setters for economic and educational development in the next millennium, and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress saw fit to pass legislation creating *The Telecommunications Reform Act of 1996* which insures rural citizens have equal access to advancements and pricing in telecommunications, and

WHEREAS, this legislation sets into place the mechanism for rural communities to achieve a competitive position in economic and educational development with more affluent and strategically located urban areas, and

WHEREAS, *The Act* will enable rural communities opportunities to enhance their development and diversification throughout the global society via telecommunications through the elimination of traditional access problems, and

WHEREAS, *The Act* does not specifically state that institutions of higher education, non-profit regional educational consortiums or health delivery systems shall be included as a Universal Service, and

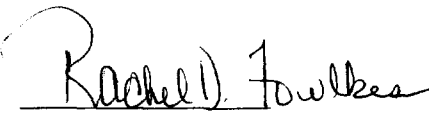
WHEREAS, the Federal Communications Commission is soliciting comments and recommendations on Universal Services under the *Act*,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Federal Communications Commission is encouraged to add under §254 (h)(B) institutions of higher education and public education consortiums which utilize telecommunications to enhance regional cooperation for educational improvement in rural areas, including them as a Universal Service under *The Telecommunications Reform Act of 1996*, and

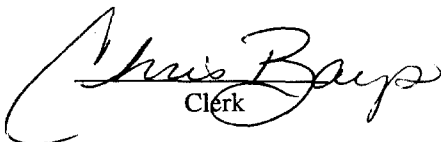
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Federal Communications Commission add non-profit rural health delivery providers as a Universal Service under *The Act* in order to insure that rural citizens are provided access to enhanced diagnostic and treatment techniques available via telecommunication activities in order to improve local health care quality at reduced expense, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commission on the Future of Southwest Virginia shall transmit this resolution and urge the following individuals to include these recommendations in *The Telecommunications Reform Act of 1996*: The Honorable Frederick C. Boucher, The Honorable John Warner, The Honorable Charles Robb, Mr. Mark Nadel, Ms. Clara Kuehn, Mr. Rafi Mohammed, Mr. Andrew Mulitz, Mr. Gary Oddi, Ms. Jeanine Plotronieri, The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, The Honorable Susan Ness, Ms. Deborah Dupont, Mr. William Howden, The Honorable Andrew C. Barrett, Ms. Pamela Szymczak, Mr. Larry Fovich, Mr. Jonathan Reel, Mr. Gary Seigel, Mr. Whiting Thayer, and Mr. Alex Bellinfante.

Adopted, this the 2 day of August, 1996.


Chair

ATTEST:


Clerk

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**TRAVERSE AREA
DISTRICT
LIBRARY**

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30 July 1996



The Honorable Reed E. Hundt
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW Room 814
Washington DC 20554

Subject: CC Docket 96-45 Universal Service

Headquarters

322 Sixth Street
Traverse City, MI
49684-2499

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Director
Michael McGuire

Dear Mr. Hundt;

I am writing to urge your strong support for discounted telecommunications discounts that will empower libraries and schools to fulfill their role as universal service providers as authorized by the Telecommunications Act of 1996. In passing this legislation, it is clear Congress recognized the key role of libraries in providing public access to electronic information infrastructure and to ensure that carriers would provide services to libraries and schools at rates less than those charged to other parties.

If libraries are to provide the public with an expanded range of information opportunities, they must have the capacity for high bandwidth interactive and visual applications. Libraries are responsible and accountable users of technology. They have in the past and will continue to leverage every bit of help. Meaningful discounts to the full range of telecommunication services available commercially will enable libraries to continue and expand their services in communities and schools. Libraries in low income, rural and other high cost areas may need special provisions.

Branch Library

East Bay Branch
1989 Three Mile Road N.
Traverse City, MI 49684

I know you are hearing from many parties about how the Federal Communications Commission and the Joint Board should implement the universal service provisions. I strongly urge you to give serious attention to libraries and the proposals they are making directly and through the American Library Association.

Sincerely yours,

Donald S. Pratt, President
Traverse Area District Library
Board of Trustees

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